

Social services personnel are having an increasingly effective impact within the Ministry of Correctional Services. This pamphlet outlines the role which they play within our over-all rehabilitation program.

MINISTERIAL STRUCTURE

The Ministry of Correctional Services is responsible for juveniles who have been admitted, before their sixteenth birthday, under The Training Schools Act, from the Provincial Courts (Family Division) and for adult offenders whose governing sentence is less than two years. At the present time the Ministry implements this service through a total of fifteen training schools, including two operated by Roman Catholic religious orders, and sixty-two adult facilities. Counseling, supervision, and material assistance is provided through the Aftercare Services Branch of the Ministry to those who have returned to the community from one of our training schools or adult institutions.

SOCIAL SERVICES PERSONNEL

To enhance the total rehabilitation program of the Ministry an increasing number of social services personnel have been recruited within recent years. We presently have on staff graduates from many of the Schools of Social Work in Canada as well as from several in the United States. To extend further the range of our social services program the Ministry also employs graduates in applied criminology, for example, from the post-graduate program at the Centre of Criminology, University of Ottawa.

Throughout the Ministry there are also a number of administrative positions which are presently filled by graduate workers and applied criminologists.

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Social services personnel perform a variety of functions within the training schools and adult correctional facilities. In addition some provide specialized service and consultation to our Aftercare Branch. Examples of the diverse nature of their work include the following:

Institutional Intake and Classification

Social services personnel are involved in the preparation of social histories and assessments as well as the making of recommendations for the most appropriate individual utilization of available institutional and community resources.

Counseling Services

A large portion of the time of the social services staff is spent in the provision of direct service to residents of our facilities. A number of techniques and methods are utilized including crisis intervention, behaviour modification, extended individual and group counseling services, and family therapy.

Staff Development

Our social services staff are becoming increasingly involved in the area of staff development. They serve as resource personnel to both administrative and correctional staff as well as participate in the more formal staff development programs of the Ministry.

Institutional Committees

Social workers and applied criminologists also participate in various institutional committees which determine significant aspects of the resident's rehabilitation program. Examples include classification committees, review committees, and institutional committees created to administer the provisions of the Ministry's expanding Temporary Absence Program.

Collateral and Community Contacts

The ultimate aim of the Ministry's rehabilitation program is to assist residents toward a more personally and socially satisfying and acceptable way of life within the community. Accordingly our social services personnel work closely with the after-care officers of the Ministry's Aftercare Branch as well as with a variety of governmental, community, and private organizations in the social welfare and correctional fields. In addition, as part of their counseling services to those in our care, they keep in touch with family members, relatives and other persons in the community who may be of assistance in the rehabilitation process.

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Aftercare Services

Social services staff are utilized by our Aftercare Branch in a number of ways. Consultative services are provided at Main Office and social services personnel also participate in staff training and development. In addition, others are attached to some field offices to supplement the work of our aftercare field staff by providing such services as family and group counseling.

STUDENT PLACEMENT UNITS

A number of our facilities are used as student placements by professional schools. At the present time the following universities have student placements in the Ministry: School of Social Work, University of Toronto; School of Social Work, Carleton University; School of Social Work, Waterloo Lutheran University; School of Social Work, McMaster University; School of Social Work, University of Windsor; and the Centre of Criminology, University of Ottawa.

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Mr. Shoom obtained his B.A. and B.S.W. from the University of Toronto. While studying for his M.S.W. at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, he did his field placement at the Intensive Treatment Unit of San Quentin Prison. In 1958 he began his career in corrections with the Ontario Probation Service in Barrie. Other professional positions held include Executive Secretary, Regina Office of the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan; Superintendent of the Provincial Correctional Centre in Regina; and Corrections Consultant to the Saskatchewan Department of Welfare. He was appointed Director of Social Work for the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services in 1970.

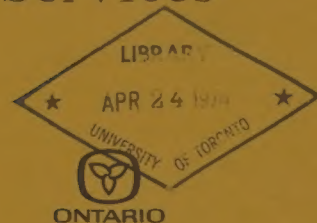


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